



Willistown Troop 78

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Vermont! Mount Snow Ski Trip

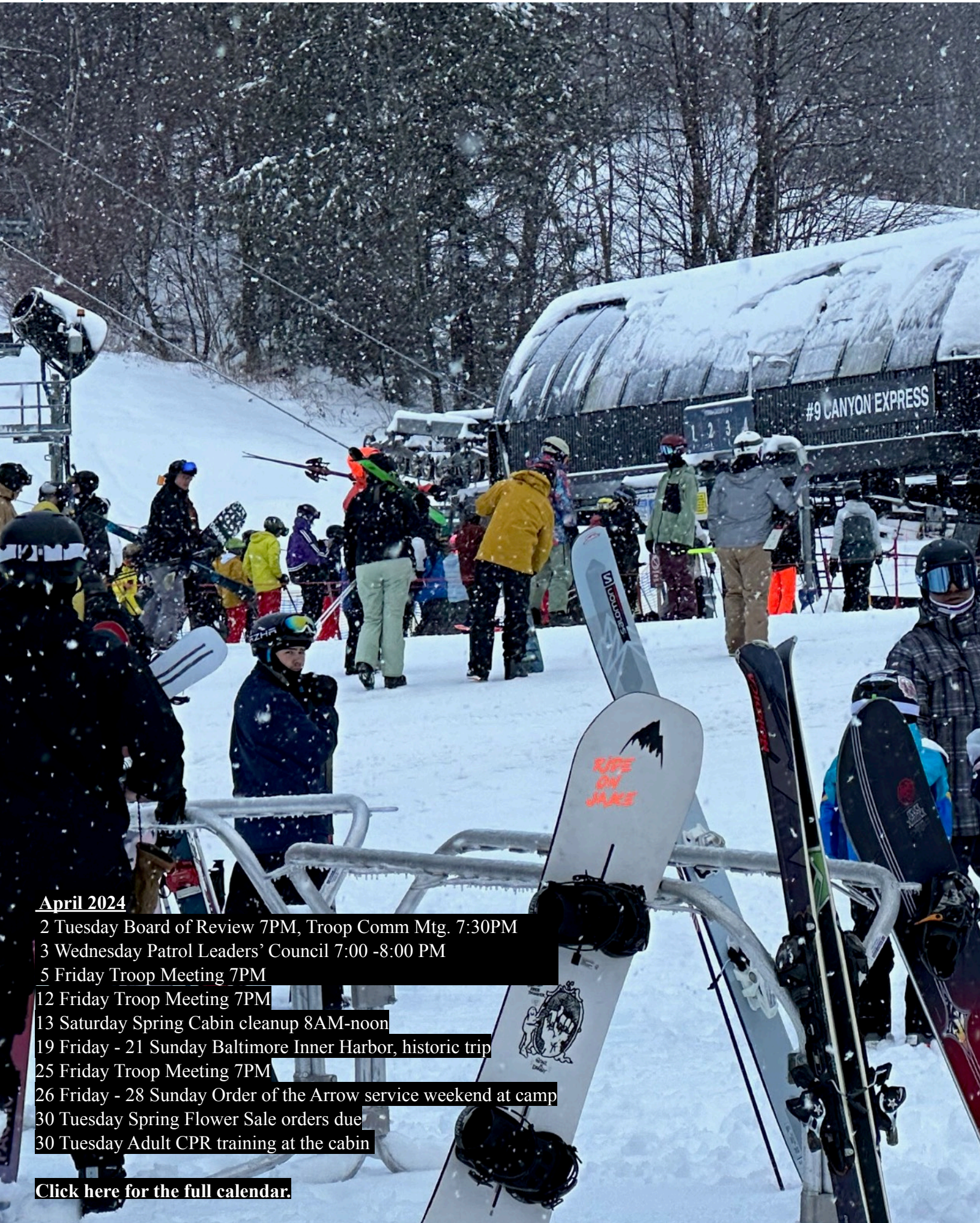


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2 Tuesday Board of Review 7PM, Troop Comm Mtg. 7:30PM

3 Wednesday Patrol Leaders' Council 7:00 -8:00 PM

5 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

12 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

13 Saturday Spring Cabin cleanup 8AM-noon

19 Friday - 21 Sunday Baltimore Inner Harbor, historic trip

25 Friday Troop Meeting 7PM

26 Friday - 28 Sunday Order of the Arrow service weekend at camp

30 Tuesday Spring Flower Sale orders due

30 Tuesday Adult CPR training at the cabin

[Click here for the full calendar.](#)

Troop 78 Hits the Slopes in Vermont!

Friday March 8 - Sunday March 10, 2024

By Sebastian Badgley

On Thursday March 7 my family and I left to go to Mt. Snow in West Dover, Vermont. My family decided to go a day earlier to meet the troop for the ski trip. It was a long six-hour ride in our car traveling from Malvern, Pennsylvania to West Dover, Vermont. When we got to my family's cabin at 9:00 we unpacked our bags, set up our beds, then went to bed and got a long needed sleep.

Friday we woke up at 7:30 to go to Betsey's Dot's of Dover to get a delicious breakfast of pancakes and cinnamon buns. Later that day we left for Mt. Snow to get a day of exploring and skiing. We went down the green slopes to warm up for the day ahead. We then went inside to get yogurt and Gatorade for our lunch. We then went back out and went up the Blue Bird Express to go to the top of the mountain. When we got to the top we decided to go down Long John a green slope. When all of us got to the bottom, we then chose to go back up and do the run a couple more times. When it was closing time, we headed back to the cabin to get dinner and a long needed rest before meeting the troop the next day.

The next morning at 6:00 we got up and ate cereal to get some energy for the whole day of skiing. We finished getting ready and headed out to the mountain so I could meet up with the rest of the scouts. When everyone was at the mountain we got our passes, found our buddies, and then left for the mountain. We started off easy with some green slopes like NE time and then went on some challenging blue slopes. We headed in for lunch, which we got to choose and ended up being chicken tenders with water. We ran back out and took up the ski lift. My buddy and I went up to the top of the mountain and decided to do a blue trail. We realized as soon as we got on it that this would be like a black



diamond with all the ice and rocks and that there was no going back up. We slowly turned our way down while miraculously I did not fall while my buddy fell once or twice. We luckily got to the bottom of the mountain alive. After that experience we skied on easier slopes for a while until we had to go back to the cabin. We all got on the troop bus and left for the warmth of the cabin. I unpacked my things and tried to find a bunk. We went back down for a couple



rounds of poker and had macaroni and cheese for dinner. I ended up not being able to get myself a bunk, so I ended up sleeping on the floor with a mattress.

We woke up on Sunday full of energy. After packing up our things and getting a breakfast of cereal, we left on the troop bus to go to the mountain. When we arrived we rushed out to get on the ski lift. We again warmed up with greens and then moved onto the blues. Most scouts then went to the terrain park where you could do jumps, turns, or moguls for advanced skiers. Later we soon had to leave so some scouts were rushing down the mountain to make it back in time. We all hopped in the bus and went back to the cabin. We put our things on the bus and then left on a long seven-hour bus ride back to the troop's cabin in Pennsylvania. We played Among Us, read, or slept until we all started getting hungry. John was the SPL during the trip so we asked him if we could stop for a snack. He replied by saying "No." John got off a little while later to see a nearby college. We then asked the adults when we were stopped to

get gas if we could get a snack. To our surprise they said, "Yes." We then went inside the store to either go to the restroom or buy a bunch of donuts and snacks. We ate and rested for the rest of the ride until we got back home after an exhausting but fun skiing trip.



Eagle Court of Honor

Sunday March 17, 2024

By Luke Fox

On March 17th, Scouts and families met together for the annual March Court of Honor where numerous scouts were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments on their scouting journey. Starting off, as usual, a few senior scouts led with a recap of recent trips, such as the Vermont Ski trip, the Appalachian Trail hike, and the adventurous stay at Matje Farm. Adding to the strong memories and inside jokes, Ben Barsotti displayed a detailed slideshow of pictures from the past half-year.

After concluding the recap, the OA call-out commenced. A whopping 10 candidates were selected to have the opportunity to undergo the rigorous OA ordeal at one of 3 upcoming weekends at Camp Horseshoe. Following this recognition of scout embodiment, the prestigious Recruit of the Year award, that can only be received by one scout in their first year, was bestowed upon Sean Tang for his outstanding achievement in already having reached First Class, holding the leadership position of Chaplain's Aide, and living by the Scout Oath and Law everyday.

Continuing with the ceremony, many scouts received recognition for completion of ranks and numerous merit badges. In typical fashion, the highest awards were saved for last. The Court of Honor concluded with Troop 78 welcoming 2 more Eagle Scouts to the history books. Owen Li and Max Lang both completed the road to Eagle as they move onto a new phase of life, using the skills they learned in scouting to pave the way.



**RECRUIT OF THE YEAR:
SEAN TANG**

EAGLE SCOUT OWEN LI

EAGLE SCOUT MAX LANG

Disney 2024!

March 23 - March 30 2024

By Caleb Fulmer

During Spring Break in March, ten scouts and three adults set out on a memorable trip to Walt Disney World. The bus was packed on Friday night with all of the gear that we would need for this incredible adventure. Then at 11:30AM on Saturday the 23rd the bus set off on its 20 hour drive to Fort Wilderness in Disney World in Florida. The first day, we spent all afternoon and evening on the bus to Florida, only stopping to use the bathroom. The bus stopped around 1 AM so the drivers could get some sleep. Then the next morning we stopped at Buckees for some breakfast before finishing the last leg of our trip to Disney. Once we made it to Fort Wilderness, we got familiar with the transit system so everyone knew how to get around the different Disney parks. Then we ate lunch and hung out at the pool until our campsite was ready. Once our campsite was ready, we set up all of the troop gear including the kitchen, tables, and tents. The cook crew made a dinner of Sloppy Joe sandwiches with chips and green beans. Then while we ate dessert, the adults made announcements and set some general ground rules for being on time, staying safe, and nightly curfew.

After dinner everyone went to Disney Springs which is just a big Disney outdoor mall. Once everyone got back to the campsite we all got ready for bed and got a good night's sleep ready for the next day which would be full of excitement. The next morning the cook crew got up to cook breakfast at 6:15 and everyone else got up for breakfast at 7 AM sharp. We had a breakfast of French toast and sausage and during breakfast everyone made sure to schedule their first fast pass for the day. Adults explained how we would travel to the park and that we would follow the buddy system for the week.

On Monday, we all went to the Magic Kingdom, but we were able to go to another park with our park hopper option if we wanted. We took a boat ride to get to the Magic Kingdom and entered the park ready for excitement. Some of the big rides in the Magic Kingdom were Space Mountain, Pirates of the Caribbean, and The Tron Light Cycle ride. There was plenty to do like cool 3D shows, live performances, and many shops to check out. Each group was in charge of getting lunch for themselves in the park and having to deal with Disney's high prices. Then each group was in charge of getting back to camp in time for dinner or cooking. Once everyone was back, then we had dinner at 5 o'clock because we wanted to return to the park to ride the Tron ride. We had a dinner of hot dogs and mac and cheese. Then the adults told us that our curfew that night would be midnight because we had to make sure we would be able to get back from the long Tron ride.

The next morning the cook crew got up at 6:15 and everyone else got up at 7:00 for a breakfast of pancakes and bacon. During breakfast everyone scheduled their first fast pass and the adults gave announcements about important things for the day. Then once the clean up crew got done, everyone



left to take a bus to Hollywood Studios which has some very iconic rides. Some of these rides include, the Tower of Terror, Smugglers Run, and The Rise of Resistance, which are located in Star Wars land. We enjoyed Star Tours which was a show in the Star Wars Universe. There were also lots of good restaurants and spots to grab food for lunch. Once the cook crew and everyone got back from the park, dinner was served at 5:30 PM and it was spaghetti and meatballs, with corn. During dessert the adults gave us announcements and told us that curfew that night was 11:00 because we were all going to ride the Rise of Resistance Star Wars ride that night.

The ride was incredible and we all had to get a cup of blue milk from the Cantina before we went on the thrilling ride. Then we all went back to camp and went to bed excited for an amazing day at EPCOT the next day. The next morning the cook crew got up at 6:15 and breakfast was served at 7. Breakfast was eggs and bacon, and during breakfast everyone made sure to schedule their first fast pass for the day. Some of the most memorable rides in EPCOT are the Guardians of the Galaxy ride, the Ratatouille ride, and Test Track where you design your own car and then see how it performs in real car testing.

However EPCOT is known best for its food not the rides, and there was a lot of great food from around the world. There was the Country Circle and each country had their own unique culture and food to explore as you walked the ring. So needless to say it wasn't hard to find lunch. This was one of the most memorable things about EPCOT, and how could anyone forget about the EPCOT ball. There is even a ride inside the ball where you answer questions on an interactive screen and an announcer talks to you. Also at night the ball has all of these lights and it turns different colors and it is wonderful. Once everyone got back from the park, dinner was served at 5:30 and was grilled cheese with corn and green beans. During dinner the adults gave announcements, and then the clean up crew got to work.

After that everyone went back into the park to look at more of the different countries and cultures and then at the end of the night everyone hopped into the Ratatouille line to ride it before the park closed. After the amazing and thrilling Ratatouille ride everyone went back to camp to go to bed anticipating the last day in the parks tomorrow at Animal Kingdom.

The next morning came and the cooking crew made breakfast of pancakes and sausage for our final day in the parks. Today we were going to the Animal Kingdom which has some incredible rides including Mt. Everest, the Safari, and the Avatar ride. These were all incredible rides and they were all amazing experiences to wrap up the week. The best ride was Mt. Everest because it was a great roller coaster and it had a great story. Avatar was a close second though because it was equally as thrilling but we had to wait two hours for the ride. The Safari was also a great experience and it was very cool to see all of the different animals. Everyone had to get their own lunch in the park again and there were very few places to get food. Everyone was back at camp by 5:30 for dinner which was cheeseburgers with green beans.

After dinner everyone went to Disney Springs so that they could get themselves souvenirs. The whole group met at Hollywood Studios so we could all ride the Tower of Terror together before we left. After this incredible and thrilling dropper



**DISNEY TURKEY:
REAL OR
ANIMATRONICS?**



we all went back to camp to start to pack up our gear, shower, and go to bed. Then the next morning everyone woke up early to packed up their personal gear before having a cold breakfast of bagels, cereal, and danishes. After breakfast everyone took down their tents and gathered their personal gear to put on bus. Then we disassembled the troop kitchen equipment and the kitchen tents.

After this we packed the bus with all the gear and made sure we were ready to go before setting off on the twenty hour ride back home. After riding for a little while we stopped at Buckees to get lunch which most people opted for their famous brisket sandwich. Needless to say, the next leg of our trip smelled like barbecue. Then we stopped again at another Buckees for dinner where some people got the same or tried a different sandwich. Both these meals were delicious and then after driving for a little longer we stopped at a scout camp in North Carolina to stay the night so we and more importantly the adults could get a good night's rest before the last 9 hours of our journey the next day. We stayed in some amazing cabins with the adults at the end of the hall. They were conjoining rooms with a bathroom in the middle and after using a Disney camp bathroom for a week (which was nice) this was a treat and it was great to take a nice shower before going to bed.

Then the next morning with a well rested crew everyone woke early to pack the gear they brought to the cabin and to eat an early breakfast at 7 o'clock. After breakfast we cleaned the rooms we stayed in and made sure we left them better then we found them. Then we hit the road and drove for four and a half hours before stopping at a Wendy's for lunch. We arrived back at the cabin before 6:00PM after a long and fun journey. Once we made it back to the cabin, we put away all of the gear from the trip and made sure the bus was clean. Then everyone went home to enjoy the rest of their weekend after an unforgettable trip.



Upcoming Events

Cabin Cleanup

Saturday April 13, 2024

Please join us for the annual spring clean up at the cabin. We will be cleaning the cabin, bus barn and the grounds. In addition, there will be several special projects.

We will work from 8 to noon, and we need all hands on deck to get these projects knocked out. Many hands make light the work!

Baltimore Inner Harbor

Friday April 19 - Sunday April 21, 2024

Join us for a weekend trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor and historic Fort McHenry.

We will be leaving from the cabin Friday evening for a fun-filled weekend to see the historic sights in the city of Baltimore. On Saturday among our destinations will be the famed Baltimore Inner Harbor and the world renown National Aquarium, spectacular display of life on planet Earth above and below the seas.

Radnor Races!

Saturday May 18 and Sunday 19, 2024

Radnor Races weekend is coming up on Saturday & Sunday, May 18th & 19th.

This is one of THE MOST IMPORTANT WEEKENDS on the Troop 78 calendar.

We need as many people coming out to work as much time as they possibly can. We especially need PARENTS as well as any other adults!

We will be out from around 8:30 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, May 18.

Please concentrate on helping us between 11:00 and 3:00. These are the most critical times. Of course, help any time is appreciated and extended hours are always needed. Clean-up is Sunday morning from 8 AM to Noon. Remember, we welcome and need help from every person you can bring out, not just Scouts & parents!



Volunteering at the Radnor Races helps:

- OUR TROOP'S MAJOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT
- TROOP 78 EARN FUNDS
- PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, THE BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY PRESERVE OPEN SPACE IN OUR AREA
- EARN MONEY IN YOUR SCOUT CAMPING ACCOUNT

Your sign-up sheet should arrive in the mail soon.

Please fill it out & send it back as soon as you get it.

That will minimize unnecessary calls and e-mails both for your sake and ours.

PLEASE BE PROMPT!!!



CPR Training!

Tuesday April 30, 2024

Anthony Wiencek from **Emergency Training Partners** is coming to give us a CPR class. Training will be held at the Cabin on the night of Tuesday April 30, cost ~ \$50.

CPR training is highly suggested for all adult Scouters and needs to be renewed every 2 years.

If interested, please contact Ted Diederich at ted.diederich@gmail.com



Fundraising

Spring Flower Sale

Orders due Tuesday April 30, 2024

Delivery May 9, 10, 11

The Spring Flower Sale is now underway!!! This is a win - win !! You get your spring flowers and garden plants delivered to your door AND the troop raises funds to support the scouting program throughout the year. Please remember: the troop's programs, including all meetings, campouts, scout food on campouts, awards, etc. are free to the scouts. This flower sale is the reason. Please take a look at our user friendly online store. We have all your gardening needs: garden flowers, herbs, annual flats, individual potted plants, and hanging baskets. Sale goes through April 30th with delivery just in time for Mother's day. Brighten your home and yard from the comfort of your own couch.

[Click here for the online store.](#)

[Scouts click here for more sale information.](#)

Importance and Expectations of Troop Fundraising

Jack Bilson, III – Camping Chairman & Eagle Scout

What about the dues we collect every year?

Exactly \$0 goes to the Troop.

100% of the annual dues go to pay for your Scout's required fees to Chester County Council and the National organization of Boy Scouts of America. We keep none of those funds for Troop operations.

Our program operates exclusively from Troop fundraising and the support of our Charter Organization - Friends of Troop 78.

Nearly every monthly trip is free to the Scouts who attend. Trips like our Vermont Ski Trip and Whitewater Rafting that do have some fees are very heavily subsidized for our youth members. We will be touring the Baltimore Aquarium later this season and it will cost your Scout nothing to come with us. This is all incredible!

How do we do it?

We also hold the expectation that **every scout and scout family, should have some participation in all of our fundraisers.** To further incentivize this, all three fundraisers provide some funds back to your Scout in their individual Scouting Camping Account, based on that Scout's family's contribution to the fundraiser itself. These funds are yours, and can be used to cover costs for trips that are not 100% covered by the troop, or help to cover Summer Camp, Florida, or High Adventure Scout Trips like Canada, Philmont, SeaBase or Switzerland. Your son's participation in

fundraisers also allows for a way to get scholarship funds for high adventure trips like some of the ones just mentioned.

In our last fundraiser, the fall Poinsettia and Wreath Sale, we missed our budget target by about \$1,000. This was in part, because only about 50% of our Scouts and their families participated in the fundraiser. The Committee could have made up the deficit by simply not contributing funds to the Scouts that did participate, but voted to accept a deficit and support the scouts who did make sales.

What does this mean?

Well, we have 2 fundraisers coming up and your participation is 100% needed for both; and with the spring flower sale in particular. A great deal of work has gone into creating the online store to allow easy ordering and sales; making it easy for scouts and their families to participate in the Flower Sale. We need every single scouting family to participate and to do so strongly. Without selling significantly past our previous sales goals with the Flower Sale, we will not be able to properly cover costs for the remainder of the normal camping season before Summer Camp.

Participation in fundraising is one of the ways to be connected and to contribute to the Troop and help Scouts grow and mature. Many of our families talk about how their Scout's participation in fundraisers allowed them to go on trips that they otherwise would never have been able to go on. Troop 78 runs the premier Scouting outdoor program in Chester County hands down, and at a cost well below anything anyone else does for the individual Scout. We also participate in more centralized Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Programs like Philmont and Sea Base with our own crews and run our own annual high adventure trip in Canada (the most affordable trip anywhere) and every four years an international trip to Switzerland.

Fundraising is key to all of this, not just for the program, or to help your family with the costs, but to assist in the development of your Scout in understanding personal participation, responsibility, and ownership. When I was in the Troop in my youth, and my son in his; we both got to go on trips because of our individual hard work (yes folks, even in the 1980's we had scout camping accounts). Fundraising is part of the program, and we work hard to have good products and provide great service.

Please help the Troop and your Scout by heavily participating in the Flower Sale and of course Radnor Races. Send as many people as you can to help us on Race Day and sell **very** hard on the Flower Sale. With you and your Scout's hard work, I know we will be able to complete this camping season on budget.

As always, if cost is a factor for your Scout's participation in our 'in season' camping program or Summer Camp please contact me or our Scoutmaster Mr. D. Scholarship funds are available.

Also, if you or your family is interested in donating funds beyond your participation in our fundraisers, please contact Mr D (willistown78@gmail.com) or our Committee Chairman David Dondero (dondero.d@gmail.com).

Alumni Corner

Where Are They Now!?

Calling all Troop alumni! The Newsletter is looking for updates on troop alumni.

Please forward any updates you may have for listing in future Newsletters.

The Troop family wants to know what you are up to!

[Contact the Newsletter.](#)

Chester County Council News

Gala! Night of Stars

Thursday March 21, 2024

Chester County Historical Society

On a recent Thursday evening Chester County Council held its **Annual Gala & Auction**. This year's theme was A Night of Stars. The event celebrated the stars of scouting, the purpose of course was to raise funds for all of our scouting programs.

The Council awarded several special honors that evening.

The **Distinguished Citizen Award**, which honors an individual who shares Scouting's belief in leadership, determination, and values, and have contributed significantly to the growth and vitality of our community. This award went to Richard (Dick) Kunsch Sr., retired longtime president and CEO of Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust. Past recipients of the Distinguished Citizen Award have included our very own Joe Rubino and Ernie Heegard.

The **Lifetime Service Award** went to Delores Hagerstrom, she served in many positions for Chester County Council including as Council President. She was the first woman to serve as a Council President in the entire United States.

There was a fantastic banquet, a silent and a live auction. Also a special auction for Camperships raised over \$12,000 to fund scholarships to help scouts attend Camp Horseshoe summer camp.



Special thanks to Troop 78's own Sam Lemheney for chairing this event and making it a successful and fun evening for all who were there!



New Chief Scout Executive

Ben Wheeler

News Release from Chester County Council

Dear Chester County Council Scouting Family,

We are pleased to announce the selection of Benjamin Wheeler as Scout Executive & Chief Executive Officer of the Chester County Council effective March 18, 2024. Ben comes to us from the Housatonic Council in Connecticut.

Ben is an Eagle Scout with Gold, Silver and Bronze Palms who earned over 100 merit badges. He is also an active member of the Order of the Arrow and is Wood Badge trained.

Ben has an outstanding history (five years running) being the #1 membership recruiter in the entire BSA. While serving as Scout Executive in 2023, he grew the Housatonic Council's year-end membership over 50% in one year.

Ben has also been an active volunteer for the BSA, working in roles including District Membership Chairman, District Committee Member, Unit Commissioner, Unit Committee Member, Merit Badge Counselor, and Cubmaster.

With Ben's strong combination of practical experience, proven results, and energetic work style, we are excited to have him as our new Scout Executive.

Please join us in congratulating Ben as he joins in partnership with the volunteers and staff of the Chester County Council to deliver quality Scouting experiences.



BEN WHEELER

National Territory #13 Meeting

Saturday March 23, 2024

PARC

CCC hosted the CST 13 Leadership Lab at PARC with over a hundred participants from CCC and neighboring councils

taking part in various seminars on membership, marketing, governance, and other topics, with a focus on

Cub Scouting and its program updates effective June 1. Thank you to the CCC staff, CCC volunteers, CST 13 participants, and course organizers / staff for a wonderful event!



Camp Horseshoe Volunteer Banquet

Thursday March 28, 2024

PARC

Last night at the HSR Volunteer Dinner, keynote speaker Noah Austin recounted how his tenure in Troop 16, his service in Octoraro 22, and his years on Camp Horseshoe staff greatly impacted his life trajectory. Also at the dinner, several Scouters were honored for their tireless dedication to the Horseshoe Scout Reservation. Congratulations and an enormous THANK YOU to:

Campmaster of the Year: Sherry Seace

Muddy River Gang Member of the Year: Bruce Wilson

Edgar Mackie II Volunteer of the Year: Stuart Watson III



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: STUART WATSON



CAMPMASTER OF THE YEAR: SHERRI SEASE

[Click here for the Chester County Council Newsletter.](#)

Order of the Arrow Annual Banquet

Sunday March 3, 2024

By Caleb Fulmer

On a very nice Sunday afternoon in early March, members of Octoraro Lodge 22 met at the Red Clayroom in Kennett Square for the annual Order of the Arrow banquet. When everyone had arrived at four o'clock we had about an hour before the staff served dinner, so everyone took this time to chat with friends, fill out raffle tickets, or participate in a silent auction. Some of the silent auction items included antique scout items and patches as well as baskets for different activities like movie night.



We had a delicious dinner of chicken parmesan, steamed vegetables, mac and cheese, and roast beef sandwiches. During dinner, there was a lot of commotion as the silent auction closed at the end of dinner and everyone rushed to get their bids in. After dinner everyone quickly and orderly made their way toward the back of the room where a dessert of cannolis, brownies, and cookies were served.

Once everyone was full from dinner, the formal portion of the banquet started. The first speaker for the evening was the National Chief of the Order of the Arrow for all the lodges. He spoke first about the power of leadership and making sure to branch out in scouting and everything you do. Then the second speaker was a national park ranger who is an Eagle Scout and he spoke about his job, and how a background in scouting could help you in your future life.



Then the awards started. There were a variety of awards given out. Some of these included Most Valuable Arrowmen, the Founders award, and the Achgekatum award. The Most Valuable Arrowmen award is an award given to a scout that is doing more than the cheerful service and is regularly contributing good ideas to the lodge. The Founders award is an award given to an Arrowmen who has given outstanding service to the lodge. After all the awards were given out, the program moved on to the OA Vigil

call out. This is the highest honor in the Order of the Arrow and it requires you to have been a Brotherhood member for two years, and performed exceptional service through leadership, exemplary efforts and dedication in that scout's troop, the OA, or at Camp Horseshoe. There were around 12 candidates that got called out for Vigil and the ceremony was inspiring to see their accomplishments in scouting. Then the leaders said a few closing words and we sang the lodge song to close out a special evening.



Please feel free to forward and/or print this Newsletter for all of your family and friends to see!